

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

**The SECOND Week of Advent:**

*December 4, 2022 at 10 am*

*“See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey. . . . He will proclaim **peace** to the nations.” (Zechariah 9:9-10)*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

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**HYMN #9: “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”**

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O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. [REFRAIN]

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [REFRAIN]

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

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Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Listen to what the Lord our God says:

**He promises peace to his people,  
who are his beloved saints.**

The Lord will indeed give what is good.

**Righteousness goes before him  
and prepares the way for his steps.**

May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us  
in this time of Advent worship.  
May we see God's face and so know peace. Amen.

—based on Psalm 85:7-13

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**HYMN #29: "GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"**

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*Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. [REFRAIN]  
The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. [REFRAIN]  
Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. [REFRAIN]

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)**

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Eternally triune God, in this season in which we prepare our hearts  
to welcome Christ, the bringer of all peace,  
we confess to you the ways in which  
we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

The rushing and scurrying to get things done;  
The worry about the little details;  
The financial burdens we put on ourselves;  
The impatience and irritability we feel—and take out on one another;  
The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy:

**We confess to you, O God of peace.**

Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year  
your peace is always there for us.  
When we feel overwhelmed and filled with worry,  
when we become irritable,  
when the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us,  
help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

**Instill within us your peace, O God.**

Instill within us your peace, O God.  
Instill within us your peace  
and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you.  
Help us to be more peaceful  
so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others.

**Amen.**

*After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.*

**CHOIR: "RISE UP, SHEPHERD, AND FOLLOW"**

**THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE**

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Sermon: *"The Unsanitized Christmas Story, Part 2: A Birth in Bethlehem"*—Chuck Guth

**Luke 2:1-24**

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup> And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

<sup>8</sup> That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. <sup>18</sup> All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, <sup>19</sup> but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

<sup>21</sup> Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

<sup>22</sup> Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.  
<sup>23</sup> The law of the Lord says, "If a woman's first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the LORD." <sup>24</sup> So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—"either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

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### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS**

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*The ceramic jars in the offering plates are designated for the Deacons' Fund **and** the World Vision Fund. Our deacons provide care, support, and financial assistance to those in the congregation in need. The World Vision Fund supports a Sponsored Child through World Vision.*

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### **HYMN #37: "INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY"**

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Infant holy, Infant lowly,  
for His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging, Angels singing,  
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new.  
Saw the glory, heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the Babe was born for you.

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### **COMMUNION**

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#### ***Celebration of the Lord's Supper***

*Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed,  
and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and partake of it in unison.*

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### **"BEHOLD THE LAMB"**

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Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away  
Slain for us and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ  
Torn for you eat and remember  
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life  
Paid the price to make us one  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin  
Shed for you drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise  
To respond and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth  
As we share in His suffering  
We proclaim Christ will come again  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King.

*"Behold the Lamb," by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend.  
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## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Caretaker Hours: 9 am - 1 pm (Mon, Tues, Wed; plus additional intermittent hours)

Tuesday Crew Facility Maintenance: 9 am – 1 pm (Tues)

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

### CHURCH CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Thurs, December 8</b>  | Session Meeting (7:00 pm)                             |
| <b>Fri, December 9</b>    | Christmas Tree Lighting/Community Outreach (6:30 pm)  |
| <b>Thurs, December 15</b> | Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)                            |
| <b>Sun, December 18</b>   | Christmas Cantata: <i>"By Heaven's Light"</i> (10:00) |
| <b>Tues, December 20</b>  | Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)        |
| <b>Sat, December 24</b>   | Christmas Eve Services (5:00 and 10:00 pm)            |
| <b>Sun, December 25</b>   | Worship Service in the Parlor (10:00)                 |